

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

This Amendment cancels Claims 9-12, 19, 21-30 and 35; and amends Claim 1 to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-8 and 31-34 will be pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

Claims 9-12, 19, 21-23, 30 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,736,601 ("Egraz-601"). In addition, Claims 21-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Egraz-601 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,891,972 ("Egraz-972"). Claims 9-12, 19, 21-30 and 35 are canceled, so the rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1-8 and 31-34 are allowed. Office Action at page 4, section 7, line 1.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 12, 2004, by initialing the associated Form PTO-1449. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the Form PTO-1449 and the date-stamp filing receipt are attached.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
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Attached:

Form PTO-1449 filed November 12, 2004, and date-stamp filing receipt

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